

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 14, 2019

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CECS-C)
Government Accountability Office Building
441 G Street, NW, Attn: CECS-C
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Secretary James:

We are writing in support of the Quincy Bay Restoration and Enhancement project near Quincy, Illinois, and urge this project to be funded at \$20 million through the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

One of the largest natural bays of the Upper Mississippi River, Quincy Bay has served as an intrinsic part of this region dating back to the early native tribal settlements, up through the initial founding of the City of Quincy, until the present day. Severe sedimentation after the construction of a major lock and dam in 1938 and construction of a railroad bridge in the late 1950s has resulted in a 72 percent loss of water volume since that time, such that the present water depths of the bay now ranges from less than one foot to less than three feet. This has harmed habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other terrestrial and aquatic species, as well as the growth of land and water vegetation.

The \$20 million in federal funds will assist with dredging 118 acres of Quincy Bay to restore depths to 10 feet. In addition, the funds will support the construction of a rock and weir structure, plus associated topographical improvements, such as island elevation and reforestation, that will prevent erosion from waves and river current, reduce future sedimentation, and dramatically improve habitat for waterfowl, wildlife, fish, and other aquatic and plant life.

There is broad support for this project among all local stakeholders with varying degrees of interest: businesses, conservationists, state and federal agencies, locally-based organizations, and outdoors groups. The need for this project has been recognized since the 1980s, and although the local sponsor, the Quincy Bay Area Restoration and Enhancement Association, has worked with stakeholders to reduce sedimentation by eight percent in some parts of the bay, additional federal resources are necessary to complete this project in full.

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Restoring the Quincy Bay is a top priority for us, and we look forward to working with you in the coming months in approving full funding for this project. Thank you for your attention to this request, and in the interim, should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

cc: Colonel Steven M. Sattinger, Commander, Rock Island District